6/2/88

Mr. Meachum's drivel

Three cheers for the mayor in your letters column of May 20, for succinctly pointing out why downtown is alive and well and living in Frederick! Your resident oracle and soothsayer, Mr. Roy Meachum, once again suffers whiplash in a head-on collision with his own invective. Poetic justice, no doubt; if the word poetic could possibly be applied to Meachum's drivel.

Of course, the real victims in all this are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elkins. Their honorable and rather touching retirement after 50 years of successful business was twisted and corrupted by your columnist as proof-positive of his own transparent and lame-brain prejudices.

Still, every clod has a silver lining. In Mr. Meachum's case, call in plagiarism. I welcome anything to lift the level of that turgid prose. But if Roy is really trying to out-earnest Hemingway, it's "Death In The Afternoon," not "Downtown."

JAMES ALEXANDER,
Frederick

Disservice to downtown

Can't you stop him before he strikes again?

Roy Meachum in his column of April 25, "Death in Downtown," paints a picture of downtown Frederick characterized by dark windows. Whoever would want to go there? Now, on May 21, "Downtown Stutters," he says there are some viable downtown businesses, but not in the "historic" business district where businesses "flounder," and, anyhow, there's no place to park.

I own a business in Frederick's historic business district (Crosson's Stationery), and I am not "floundering" or even foundering. In fact, I recently expanded my space by 50 percent. I think my store is bright, fresh and up-beat. My windows are lit. I find it an undeserved disservice to my business to have someone from *The Frederick News-Post* discourage downtown shopping.

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